National Aeronautics and Space Administration

NASAfacts

The Space Life Sciences Training Program at NASA's Ames Research Center

An Investment in Tomorrow

Overview

NASA's Space Life Sciences Training Program (SLSTP) provides undergraduate students entering their junior or senior years with professional experience in space life science disciplines. This challenging ten-week summer program is held at NASA's Ames Research Center in the heart of California's Silicon Valley. The primary goal of the program is to train the next generation of scientists and engineers, enabling NASA to meet future research and development challenges in the space life sciences.

The SLSTP Experience

In this rigorous program, students work closely with renowned NASA scientists and engineers on cutting-edge research, benefiting from the concentration of bioscience expertise at Ames. In addition to conducting hands-on research, SLSTP students attend technical lectures given by experts on a wide range of topics and tour NASA research facilities.

This program provides opportunities for students to develop professional skills. Technical and professional development training will occur through public speaking, scientific presentations, and courses on project management. SLSTP students are expected to submit an abstract to a professional scientific or engineering organization (e.g. The American Society for Gravitational and Space Research).

SLSTP participants are exposed to a broad scope of bioscience research performed by NASA scientists. Participants acquire skills and knowledge of the tools and methodology used by NASA to conduct life science experiments in space.

Participants in the program receive a stipend and housing accommodations for the summer. In addition to learning about NASA life sciences, interns get an opportunity to experience life in Silicon Valley.

2013 SLSTP participants at Ames. (Image Credit: NASA / Dominic Hart)

Research Areas

Students in SLSTP undertake research projects in various areas, examples include:

- Studies of the effects of spaceflight on living systems, conducted both on the ground and also in space aboard the International Space Station and other spacecraft.
- The development and operation of specialized research facilities to support investigations in microgravity, partial gravity, and hypergravity.
- Research and development of advanced biotechnologies that enable NASA's exploration of distant destinations.

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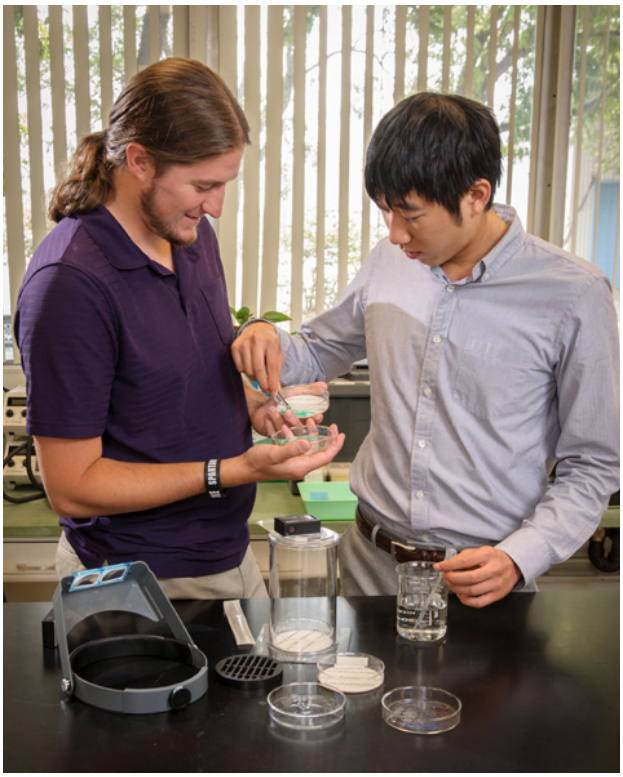
Information for Applicants

The SLSTP is an equal opportunity program. Admission is by competitive application process. U.S. Citizen undergraduate students who maintain a 3.2 or higher grade point average are invited to apply. Past student participants were selected for their outstanding merit, passion for space, and desire to study space life science.



2013 SLSTP participants working in the Ames Research Center plant biology laboratory
(Image Credit: NASA / Dominic Hart)

Applications for the SLSTP will be submitted through NASA's One Stop Shopping Initiative (OSSI) website. Prospective applicants must pre-register for a student account and create an interest profile on the OSSI website: intern.nasa.gov/ossi. Although the application period for summer student internships generally closes in March of the same year, offers for positions may be made 4-6 weeks prior to the application closing date. *Students are encouraged to submit their applications early.* Please visit the SLSTP website for current information about internship opportunities and important dates.

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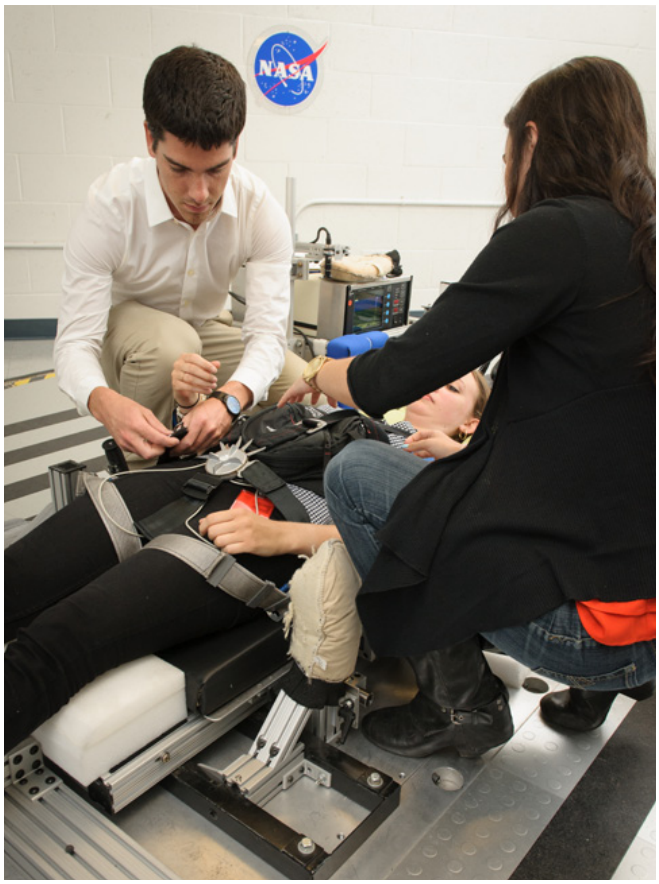
Program Support

The SLSTP is funded by NASA's Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate, Division of Space Life and Physical Sciences. The SLSTP is managed by the Space Biology Project within the Space Biosciences Division at Ames. Program administration is executed by Lockheed Martin.



2013 SLSTP participants performing research using the Human Performance Centrifuge at Ames
(Image Credit: NASA / Dominic Hart)

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SLSTP Website

http://www.nasa.gov/ames/research/space-life-sciences-training-program